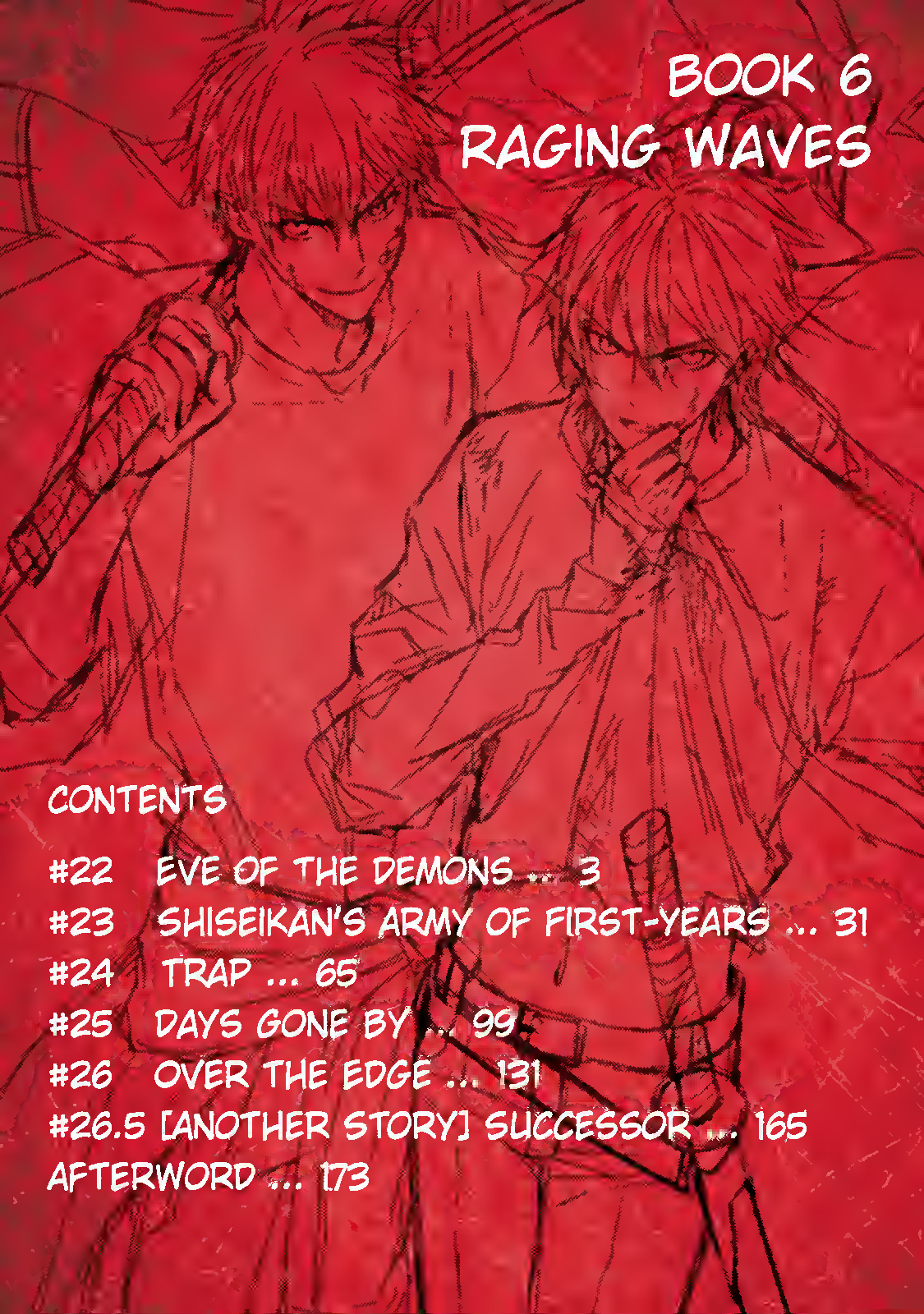
6
SAMURAI DRIVE
Fujiko Kosumi

SAMURAI DRIVE 6
FUJIKO KOSUMI



BOOK 6
RAGING WAVES

CONTENTS

#22 EVE OF THE DEMONS ... 3
#23 SHISEIKAN'S ARMY OF FIRST-YEARS ... 31
#24 TRAP ... 65
#25 DAYS GONE BY ... 99
#26 OVER THE EDGE ... 131
#26.5 [ANOTHER STORY] SUCCESSOR ... 165
AFTERWORD ... 173

#22: EVE OF THE DEMONS

Samurai Drive

CHARACTER PROFILE

A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT WHO TRANSFERRED TO SHISEIKAN HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS 1-1, HE CALLS HIMSELF "HARUMA'S COMRADE." HE IS ORIGINALLY FROM SHIGA PREFECTURE, AND HIS RESPECT FOR SEISHIRO DREW HIM TO TOKYO. HE LIVES IN THE SCHOOL DORMS AND WORKS PART-TIME TO PAY FOR HIS TUITION.

THE PROTAGONIST OF THE STORY. HARUMA IS A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT SHISEIKAN HIGH SCHOOL, AND HE IS IN CLASS 1-1. HE IS RUMORED TO BE THE MOST SKILLED SWORDSMAN IN HIS YEAR. THE MONSTROUS STRENGTH HE DISPLAYED DURING HIS SEARCH FOR HIS TEACHER'S KILLER SOON WON HIM THE NICKNAME "WHITE DAEMON." THAT SAID, HE'S CHRONICALLY SLEEPY AND IS A GUY OF FEW (ALMOST NO) WORDS, SO IT'S GENERALLY HARD TO TELL. HE'S EVEN THERE AT ALL. THANKS TO IBUKI, HE'S STARTING TO SEEM A BIT MORE NORMAL.

THIS CLASSMATE OF HARUMA IS GENTLE AND COOL-HEADED, BUT DEEP DOWN HE'S A PASSIONATE YOUNG MAN AND A HUGE JIN FAN. REN'S THE FRIEND HE JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET RID OF.

THIS CLASSMATE OF HARUMA IS VERY IMPULSIVE, PASSIONATE AND EASILY MOVED TO TEARS. HE'S ALSO NOT VERY TOUGH. IN THE PAST, HARUMA HAS WIPED THE FLOOR WITH HIM...

HE IS ALSO ONE OF HARUMA'S CLASSMATES. PEOPLE CALL HIM THE "FOUR-EYED DETECTIVE." MAYBE THERE'S A MYSTERIOUS ORGANIZATION CALLED THE "HAJIME KANEDA DETECTIVE GROUP."

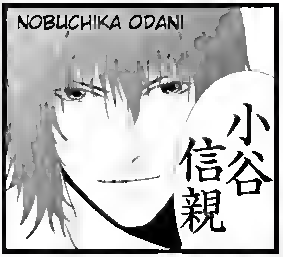
HARUMA'S OLDER BROTHER. HE IS THE RIGHT-HAND MAN OF HIS FATHER, A RADICAL SWORD ABOLITIONIST, PROVIDING SUPPORT BEHIND THE SCENES. HE DOES NOT TAKE KINDLY TO HIS BROTHER HARUMA BECAUSE HE IS STILL DEVOTED TO SEISHIRO.

HE IS THE LEADER OF THE "TRUE SWORD-BEARER" PARTY. HE APPEARS TO KNOW YUKINARI WELL...

A GIFTED SWORDSMAN WHO WAS MURDERED TWO YEARS AGO AT THE AGE OF 23. HE WAS HARUMA'S MENTOR. JUST BEFORE HE DIED, HE KILLED INNOCENT CIVILIANS, AN ACT WHICH DESTROYED HIS REPUTATION AFTER HIS DEATH

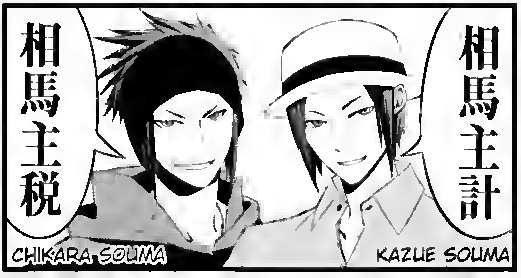
HE IS A SECOND-YEAR STUDENT AT SHISEIKAN AND THE SCHOOL'S STRONGEST SWORDSMAN. HE AND HARUMA WERE BOTH SEISHIRO'S DISCIPLES. HE DOTES ON HARUMA AND LOOKS OUT FOR HIM, BUT IT ANNOYS HARUMA

A MYSTERIOUS SWORDSMAN THAT HARASSED HARUMA. AS OF NOW, HIS TRUE IDENTITY IS UNKNOWN, BUT FROM THE WAY HE TALKS, IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS HE'S A WEIRDO.



SEISHIRO'S COMRADE. HE IS ON DEATH ROW FOR MURDER.

A SECOND-YEAR STUDENT AT SHISEIKAN. HE IS JIN'S QUIET, COURTEOUS PARTNER. AMONG THE SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS, ONLY JIN IS MORE SKILLED WITH A SWORD. HE'S RESOLVED TO DEVOTE HIS LIFE TO JIN.



THESE BROTHERS ARE SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS WHO ARE CALLED THE "TWIN DEVILS." THE ONE ON THE LEFT IS THE OLDER BROTHER CHIKARA, AND ONE ON THE RIGHT IS THE YOUNGER BROTHER, KAZUE.

STORY OUTLINE

AFTER THE MEIJI RESTORATION, THE MEIJI GOVERNMENT ALLOWED THE SAMURAI TO CONTINUE TO BEAR SWORDS. THIS PRACTICE HAS CONTINUED TO THE PRESENT, BUT THE SAMURAI ARE CONSIDERED TO BE AN ANACHRONISM, SO THE POLITICAL CLIMATE NOW FAVORS FACTIONS AND MOVEMENTS THAT AIM TO BAN THE CARRYING OF SWORDS. THE FAMOUS ALL-BOYS SCHOOL "SHISEIKAN" IS ONE OF THE LAST SWORDSMEN SCHOOLS LEFT IN JAPAN. THEY WERE ORDERED TO CANCEL THEIR ANNUAL TRADITION, THE "SHISEI FESTIVAL," WITHOUT ANY SAY IN THE MATTER. HOWEVER, THEY CARRIED OUT THE FESTIVAL ANYWAY, AND IT WAS AN ASTOUNDING SUCCESS. THEY PAID A GREAT PRICE FOR THEIR ACTION. THE SCHOOL WAS COMPLETELY CLOSED. THIS WAS THE PLOT OF THE "TRUE SWORD-BEARERS," A GROUP OF EXTREMISTS BENT ON CONTROLLING JAPAN. AMIDST A BATTLE, A CHARISMATIC SWORDSMAN LEADER AT SHISEIKAN HIGH SCHOOL, JIN SAITO, WAS SHOT. THIS INCIDENT SPLIT THE TIGHTLY KNIT STUDENT BODY IN TWO. IBUKI HAS JOINED THE SOUMA BROTHERS WHO ARE LEADING GROUP THAT ADVICES PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY. WHEREAS, MAKIO HAS JOINED SERIZAWA'S GROUP WHO INTENT ON ACTING OUT THEIR REVENGE!

YOU SAW WHO WE'RE UP AGAINST!
THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF OPPONENT YOU CAN BEAT BY CHARGING IN BLINDLY.
ENOUGH ALREADY!
CALM DOWN, YOU IDIOT!
HEY...
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
THIS ISN'T ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING!
WE'RE GOING TO CRUSH THE EXTREMISTS!
IF YOU GET IN OUR WAY, DON'T THINK I'LL HOLD BACK!
GWRR

IF YOU WANT A FIGHT, YOU'VE GOT ONE.
BRING IT ON!
GET THEM!
GUYS!
CALM DOWN!
KLANG
RAAGH
?!
H-HEY, WAIT!

THE SOUMA ...
BASSH
...BROTHERS ...
?!
YOU FOOLS...
YOU'RE SOFT!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT, FIGHT TO THE DEATH!
HUH?!

BLUSSH
YOU STARTED IT! HOW NAÏVE CAN YOU GET?!
YOU LOOK PRETTY HAPPY TO HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF THAT!
おもわず絶句…
COMPLETE LOSS OF WORDS...
HEY!
YOU'RE MAKING IT WORSE!
SHIVER
TAPP
...BREAK UP.
LET'S...
HEY, TASUKU.
WHADDYA WANT?!
YOU CAN'T STOP US.
I WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING AS THOUGHT-LESS AS THAT.
I'M NOT STOPPING ANYONE.
WHA-?!

AGREED!
WE DON'T NEED COWARDLY TRASH LIKE YOU.
SO IT'S ALL RIGHT.
LOOKS LIKE YOU MEAN WHAT YOU SAY.
WHY DON'T WE ALL JUST DO WHAT WE WANT?
POPP
POPP
POPP
POPP
YOU BASTARD...

DA-DUM
WE SPLIT RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE, HUH?
TO THE OLD AUDITORIUM AND THE MAIN BUILDING.
旧講堂も
本校舎も
SWHEEE
SIGH
WHAT'S WRONG, REN??
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT'S WRONG"?
WE'RE ALL ENEMIES NOW!
YOU SURPRISED?
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER FIGHT WITH MAKI...

COW-ARD!
IDIOT!
ARE TASUKU'S PEOPLE HARASSING US AGAIN?!
BESIDES ...
KRASSH
BONK
ROLL
FWOOSH
THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER!
YEAH.
Ha ha ha.
THEY'RE SEETHING.
A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL!
I'm gonna die!
YEAH!!
I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
AND THEY'RE ALREADY GETTING READY TO ATTACK THE EXTREMISTS!
YEAH!
YOU GUYS READY?!
WHY ARE THEY SO UNITED?!

WHAT ABOUT US?!
WHAT "OPPORTUNITY" ARE WE WAITING FOR?
HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO WAIT?
IF YOU LIKE HOW THEY THINK, JOIN THEM.
WE WON'T STOP YOU.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
I THINK WHAT THEY'RE DOING IS WRONG...
FWIP
AREN'T WE GOING TO STOP THEM?!
ARE YOU ABOUT DONE?
....
HUH?!

TASUKU MAY SEEM LIKE A PUNK, BUT HE REALLY BELIEVES IN WHAT HE'S DOING.
IT'S NO USE.
YEAH.
RIGHT?
WE RESPECT THAT-TO A POINT.
BUT!
IT'S RECKLESS! THEY'RE UP AGAINST THE EXTREMISTS!
IF THEY WERE NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF RECKLESS IDIOTS, I WOULD HAVE CUT THEM DOWN.
PAAT
BUT YOU KNOW HOW MUCH TASUKU HATES JIN, AND NOW HE'S STANDING UP FOR HIM.
TMP
TMP
TMP
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY TO SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
WHAT IT MEANS WHEN A MAN TRULY BELIEVES IN SOMETHING.
YOU UNDER-STAND, RIGHT?

FLAAP
WELL...
IF YOU CAN DO CONVINCE HIM, I WON'T STOP YOU.
....
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
SAVING HARUMA IS MY TOP PRIORITY.
OH... THAT'S RIGHT...
GOOD FOR YOU, IBUKI..
DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO.
CONSIDERING EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON, SECURITY AROUND HARUMA'S PLACE IS GOING TO BE PRETTY TIGHT.
YOU'D BETTER GO IN WITH A PLAN.
YEAH.
DON'T THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY LIKE AN IDIOT.
SO, REN.
TWITCH

WELL...
YOU SAY THAT, BUT...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, THEN?!
JUST LIKE MAKIO DID.
DECIDE THAT NOW.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FROM NOW?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO EITHER! EVEN SO...
YOU TALK BIG, BUT WHAT ARE YOU ACTUALLY DOING?
ABOUT TASUKU ?!
ABOUT JIN?!
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT THEM?!
REN!
HEY!

AREN'T YOU ANGRY?!
OF COURSE THEY ARE.
...THOSE TWO WILL SIT STILL AND JUST WAIT FOR JIN TO COME BACK?
YOU REALLY THINK...

WITH JIN GONE...
...AND TASUKU GETTING OUT OF CONTROL...
...WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN IF NO ONE CALMS THIS PLACE DOWN?
THOSE TWO CHOSE TO WAIT FOR SHISEIKAN.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. THIS IS THE "TWIN DEVILS" WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
THEY WERE BOTH VERY CLOSE TO JIN.
ACTUALLY ...

THEY'RE ANGRIER ABOUT THIS THAN ANYONE.
KOKONOE
SECURITY IS JUST AS TIGHT AS I THOUGHT.

KLANG
!!
HMM?
WHO ARE YOU?
CHIKARA ...
!

YOU BRAT!
SLASSH

SHISEIKAN HIGH SCHOOL, SECOND-YEAR!
SLAMM
KAZUE SOUMA.
CHIKARA.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PASSIONATE GREETING YOU GAVE OUR BOSS.
YOU EXTREMIST PIECE OF CRAP.

KLANG
!
WELL, WELL. WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE WITH OUR EMPLOYER?
TAP
TAP
SWSSH
BUZZ
BUZZ
STOMMP

SMASSH
KLACK
KLACK
BUZZ
BUZZ
HA!
NOT BAD!
NOT BAD AT ALL!
YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH...
KLANG
...TO MAKE THIS INTERESTING!

SWSSH
WHAT'S THIS?
THESE GUYS ARE IDIOTS!
THEY'RE NOT EVEN TRYING TO DODGE! IT'S LIKE THEY WANT TO DIE!
EVEN IF WE DO, WE'RE TAKING YOU TO HELL WITH US.
SHUT UP.
WE WON'T DIE HERE.

EVEN IF IT MEANS PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO HATE US, WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS NOW.
IF WE CAN DIE BY EACH OTHER'S SWORDS, THEN THAT'S ALL WE WANT.
THIS IS THE WILL OF SHISEIKAN.
HURTING OUR FRIENDS DESERVES NOTHING LESS THAN DEATH!
BUZZ
BUZZ

HONK
HA!
THESE GUYS ARE DUMB, BUT ENTER-TAINING.
I LIKE 'EM!
Ha ha! AGREED.
VROOM
SOMEDAY...
D...
I LIKE YOU TWO.
I HOPE WE CAN CROSS SWORDS AGAIN.
HEY.
HUFF

SOUMA...
YOU CAN COME OUT NOW...
...FIRST-YEARS.
A-HA
SERIOUSLY?! YOU'RE A STALKER!
I FOLLOWED YOU AND SAW... EVERYTHING...
SNORK
SNIFF
I... I HEARD FROM TSURUGIBE THAT...
WITH...
KEEP IT A SECRET FROM THE OTHERS AT SHISEIKAN, OKAY?
BONK

TO PROTECT THE LIGHTS THAT KEEP US WARM.

END

SAMURAI DRIVE

SAMURAI DRIVE CHARACTER PROFILE - PART 20

HARUMA'S PARENTS.
MR. KOKONOE HAS THE EXACT SAME PERSONALITY AS HARUMA. HE'S SILENT, SO HE AND HIS SON RARELY EVER COME TO A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ON ANYTHING. WHEN HIS MOTHER WAS STILL ALIVE, SHE HELD THE FAMILY TOGETHER, BUT HER DEATH CAUSED THE FAMILY TO BE THE WAY IT IS NOW. HARUMA'S MOTHER IS HIS FATHER'S SECOND WIFE, AND SHE MARRIED HIS FATHER WHEN SHE WAS 18 YEARS OLD. AT THE TIME, HIS FATHER WAS 35 AND YUKINARI WAS NINE. UNLIKE HIS PREVIOUS WIFE, SHE WAS A VERY WARM PERSON THAT LIT UP THE ENTIRE KOKONOE HOUSEHOLD.

MR. AND MRS. KOKONOE

#23: SHISEIKAN'S ARMY OF FIRST-YEARS

RING
CALLING
九重晴馬
!
YOU SAID IT'S FROM HARUMA?
BEEP
HELLO? HARUMA?
BA-DUMP
WHO ARE YOU?

#23: SHISEIKAN'S ARMY OF FIRST-YEARS

SWAAH
AHHHH!
PSST
PSST
PSST
ARE YOU TRYING PUT PEOPLE IN DANGER?
HOW MANY TIMES WILL YOU COME AFTER US?
YOU PEOPLE AGAIN?
SWSSH
PUT YOUR SWORD AWAY.
YOU EVIL SHISEIKAN SWORD-BEARERS.

KLANG
AFTER I CRUSH YOU
SURE, I'LL PUT IT AWAY.
FWSS
SO YOU'RE DEMON-STRATING AGAINST SWORDS WHILE BEING PROTECTED BY THESE JERKS? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
HEY, LISTEN UP! DON'T BE FOOLED!
S-STOP IT!
AHH!
YOU'VE GOTTA BELIEVE ME!
GRIP
THEY'VE SHOT AND WOUNDED OUR FRIENDS!
THEY'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOU.
THEY'RE SLEAZEBAGS THAT WOULD DO ANYTHING TO GET THEIR WAY!
THIS IS WHAT SWORD-BEARERS REALLY ARE.
帯刀者は刀を捨てろ
SWORD-BEARERS! DROP YOUR SWORDS!
刀ヒョ 禁
BAN SWORDS!
DID YOU SEE THAT, EVERY-ONE?!

PSST
THE REMAINING STUDENTS HAVE BARRICADED THEMSELVES IN THE CLOSED SCHOOL AND ARE GOING WILD LIKE THIS.
...TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED FOR DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, AT SHISEIKAN THE SCHOOL FOR SWORDSMEN THEY ATTEND...
NO MORE SWORD-BEARERS. NO MORE SWORDS.
脱・帯刀
廃刀
MOST PEOPLE ALLOWED TO WEAR SWORDS ARE NOTHING BUT A THREAT!
PSST
THE RIGHT TO BEAR SWORDS IS NOTHING BUT A HIDEOUS ANACHRONISM.
TMP
TMP
TMP
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY.
BUT PLEASE REST ASSURED.
THE PRIVILEGE TO BEAR SWORDS SHOULD BE REVOKED FOR ALL BUT A SELECT GROUP OF PEOPLE.

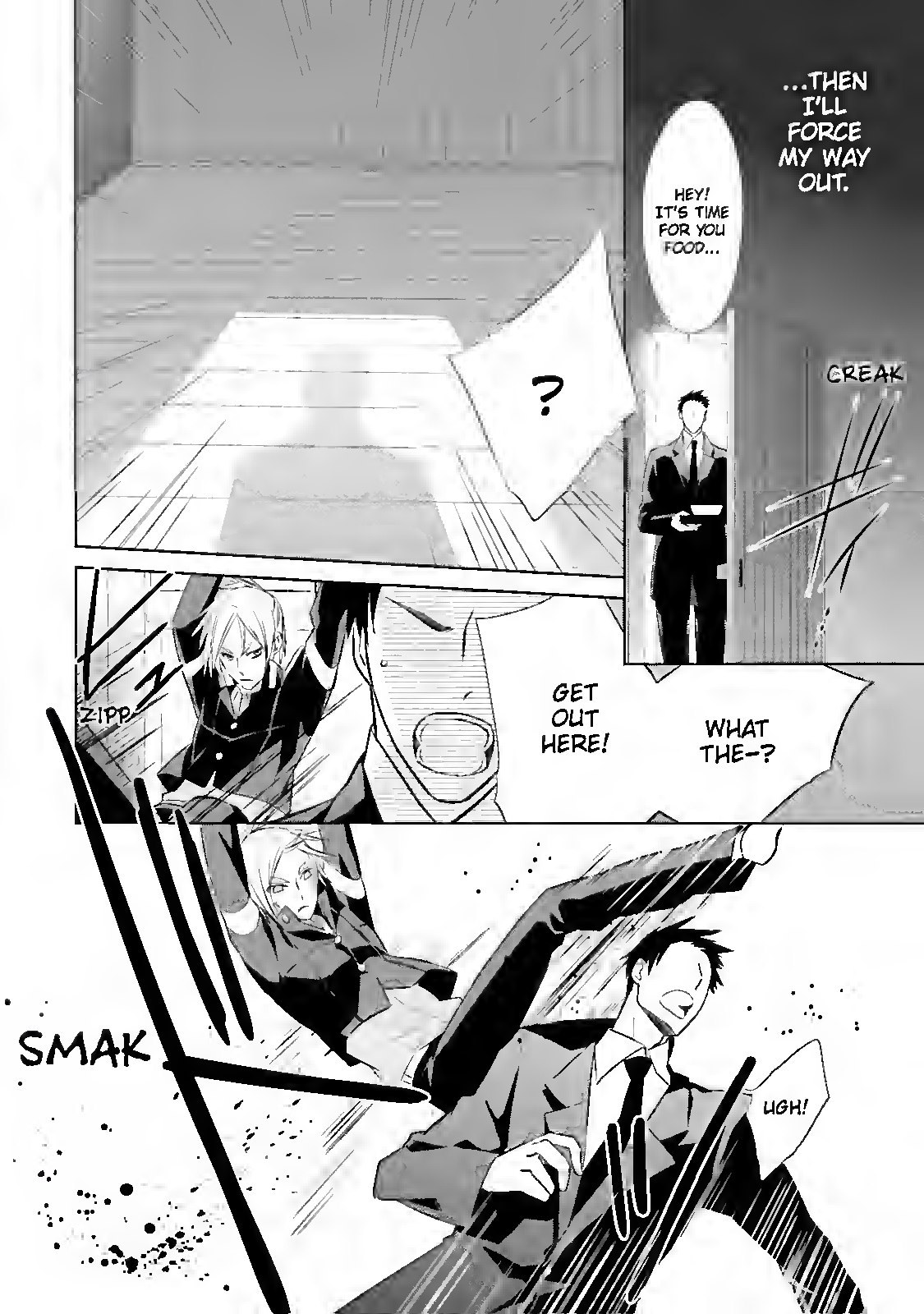
KLANG
THAT IS WHY WE'RE HERE.
WE UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL.
AND WE ALSO WANT AN END TO THE EVIL OF SWORD-BEARERS.
SO PLEASE LEAVE THIS TO US.
OUR INTENTION IS NOT TO TROUBLE YOU WITH THESE MATTERS, BUT...
...THE TRUE SWORDSMEN...

TRUE SWORDSMEN...
...MY ASS.
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
THE TRUE SWORD-BEARERS...
WE CAN TRUST THEM.
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO HURT OTHERS.
WHY DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?!
GRCCH
THUDD
...WILL WIELD OUR SWORDS TO DEFEND YOU.

THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO CALL THEMSELVES SWORDSMEN!
SLAM
HOW MANY TIMES IS IT NOW? ONE OF THESE DAYS, THEY'LL...
THEY'RE BACK.
AND THEY LOOK LIKE CRAP.

LET'S GET GOING.
TASUKU HAS HIS WAY OF DOING THINGS.
AND WE HAVE OURS.
YEAH.
HANG IN THERE, HARUMA.

SLAM
SLAM
LET ME OUT!
CALL MY BROTHER!
SHUT UP!
SLAM
HUFF
HUFF
SLAM
WHY DO WE HAVE TO BABYSIT SOME KID?
SLAM
Tch...
I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE AN EASY JOB.
IT'S HOPELESS.
THE DOOR WON'T OPEN.
IF THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING ME OUT...


...THEN I'LL FORCE MY WAY OUT.
HEY! IT'S TIME FOR YOU FOOD...
?
CREAK
ZIPP
GET OUT HERE!
WHAT THE-?
SMAK
UGH!

PLOP
OOF...
TAP
HOW DID YOU FALL FOR THAT?
DASH
STOP!
TMMP
!
OR ELSE...
KASUGA...
GO BACK...
YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN.

I'M SO SORRY.
I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT I WOULD GET IN YOUR WAY.
I WANTED TO BE OF SOME HELP TO YOU.
I MANAGED TO TAKE BACK KOUYA.
BUT I WAS CAPTURED...
WHOOSH
YOU'RE TOO KIND!
I'LL DEFEND KOUYA WITH MY LIFE!
I'M COMPLETELY FINE!
PAY ME NO MIND!
...ARE YOU OKAY, KASUGA?
THAT'S OKAY.
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
SWIRL

IF I HADN'T GOT IN THE WAY, YOU MIGHT'VE ESCAPED.
I'M SO ASHAMED OF MYSELF.
KASUGA!
BUT...
IT'S OKAY.
DON'T WORRY.
I...
...WANT TO PROTECT YOU.
IT'S FINE.
THERE WILL BE ANOTHER CHANCE TO ESCAPE.
EVEN IF I CAN'T GET OUT ON MY OWN...

...IBUKI WILL COME.
!
IBUKI?
YES.
HE PROMISED
NOD
THAT HE'LL COME.
A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
...IT NEVER WOULD HAVE CROSSED MY MIND ..
...TO RELY ON SOMEONE ELSE.
BUT NOW...
...HE DOES.
THE CHOICE OF SIMPLY "WAITING."
IT HAS SUCH A PROFOUND MEANING FOR HIM.
THAT'S WHY I'LL DO WHAT I CAN NOW.
OH...

UGH
KASUGA?
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU CRYING?
KLUNK
HE'S NO LONGER WALKING IN THE DARKNESS ALONE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'M SURE HE WILL...
HE TRUSTS THAT HIS FRIENDS WILL COME HELP.
SNIFF
KASUGA...
...YOU CAN'T CRY.
PHEW
SORRY, I'M NOT SCARED.
I JUST FEEL SO HAPPY.
SNIF
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS MY BIG SISTER.
THE WHOLE TIME...
....WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON MY SIDE.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...

BWAAAAH
KIND WORDS LIKE THAT ONLY MAKE MY TEARS FALL HARDER!
POUR
BUT HARUMA...
DON'T SAY YOU'RE ALONE IN THIS HOME.
YOUR FAMILY IS...
MY BROTHER...
...HATES ME.
SO DOES MY DAD.
I'VE NEVER TALKED TO HIM.
THEY ARE BOTH...
...VERY COLD TO ME.
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
BOOM
?!
HARUMA...

RMMBLE
WHAT?
THEY'RE HERE!
RMMBLE
WHO ARE THEY?!
WE... WE NEED BACK UP!
RMMBLE
RMMBLE
RMMBLE
PLEASE! WE'RE AT THE FRONT OF THE MANOR.
AND THERE'S AN ARMY OF SHISEIKAN STUDENTS!

POP
POP
RAAGH
POP
GO! ATTACK!
POP
POP
POP
FIRST-YEARS! IT'S TIME TO WREAK HAVOC!
POP
YOU'RE REALLY INTO THIS, REN!
SHUT UP, HAJIME!
SWIP
GRAB
RAGH!
REN, BEHIND YOU!

THUD
SLASH
YOU WERE WIDE OPEN!
DAMMIT...
HUUFF
WHY WAS I OPEN?
USUALLY...
SHUT UP!
RAGH!
UGH!
ZWIP
YOU ALWAYS HAVE MY BACK!
THEN...
WHAT'S YOUR "PATH"?
WHY IS EVERYONE SEPARATED?!
DAMMIT! HARUMA AND MAKI TOO!

RAAAGH
THAT'S MY PATH!
I'LL... ...BRING BACK MY FRIENDS!
AHHH
AHHH
POP
POP
VROOM
KLANG
KREEK
HUH?!
I HAVE TO DO MY JOB! I NEED YOU TO ACCEPT IT...!
I DON'T CARE! JUST LEAVE IT INSIDE OR SOMETHING!
BOOM
IT'S A DELIVERY. CAN YOU SIGN?
HUH?!
CAN'T YOU TELL WE'RE BUSY RIGHT NOW?!
AT A TIME LIKE THIS? ARE YOU BLIND?
U-UM, EXCUSE ME! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WSSH
EEK!
AHHH
FWSSH
ROLL
AHHH
HUH?!
WHO ARE YOU?!

WHAT'S WRONG?
UMM...
ガラガラ
ROLL
W-WHAT?!
ガラガラ
ROLL
WHAT'S HAPPENING OUTSIDE?!
EXCUSE ME, BUT THEY TOLD ME TO BRING IT HERE...
DELIVERY!
AT A TIME LIKE THIS? AND HERE?!
THAT'S SO SUSPICIOUS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU...
UM, I JUST WANT TO GO HOME, SO CAN YOU PLEASE ACCEPT THE DELIVERY?
KLUNK
HM...
JUST PUT IT DOWN!
SO SUSPICIOUS...
OPEN IT UP AND SEE...
KLACK
FWIP

THUD

PUMPF
PUMPF
SNEAKING AROUND WORKS BETTER THAN I THOUGHT.
隠密作戦ってこんな上手くいくだな。
THANKS, SHADOW.
THE INFILTRATION IS A SUCCESS.
PLOP
CRNKK
HE WORKS FOR US.
HEY, SAVE YOUR THANKS FOR THE SUGATANI FAMILY.
BUT YOU DIDN'T DO A SINGLE THING!
CHATTER
AND WHY ARE YOU HERE, AGAIN?
WHERE HARUMA KOKONOE IS, THERE IS BEAUTY, THEREFORE, I AM THERE.
WHATEVER! I DON'T CARE I'M SICK OF HEARING THAT.
CHATTER
THAT VOICE!
IBUKI!

HEY, HARUMA.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
HEH! THAT'S RIGHT...
YOU HAVE NO WAY OF OPENING THE DOOR.
IBUKI...
KASUGA IS RIGHT NEXT DOOR.
BUT WE CAN'T...
...GET OUT.

YOU NAÏVE LITTLE BRAT!
THAT DOOR CAN ONLY BE OPENED BY REMOVING THE LOCK.
AND THAT LOCK AND KEY CAN ONLY BE OPENED BY YUKINARI!
HAH! YOU'RE DONE FOR!
YEAH, YOU'D THINK THAT.
JAANGLE
?!

IBUKI.
KREEK
KREEK
HOW DID YOU ...?
!

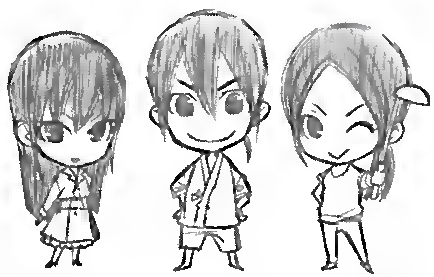
IT CAN'T BE...
THANK YOU...
...FOR YOUR HELP.
WHY?
FATHER?!
MR. KOKONOE.

WHO ARE YOU?
I AM...
...HARUMA KOKONOE'S FATHER.
?!
I WANT TO HELP YOU.
I WANT YOU TO HELP HARUMA ESCAPE.
WHY?

IMPOSSIBLE...
FATHER...
WHY?
HARUMA.
DON'T YOU HATE ME?
YOU HAVE ALWAYS...
...BEEN SO COLD.
GIVE ME YOUR HAND.

THUD
OUT OF THE WAY.
I WOULD RATHER YOU DON'T TOUCH THAT THING...
...FATHER.
I COULDN'T EVEN THINK. I HEARD KASUGA'S SCREAMS FAR IN THE DISTANCE.
SIR! NORIKUMO!
END

SAMURAI DRIVE



SAMURAI DRIVE CHARACTER PROFILE – PART 21

THE SAITO FAMILY

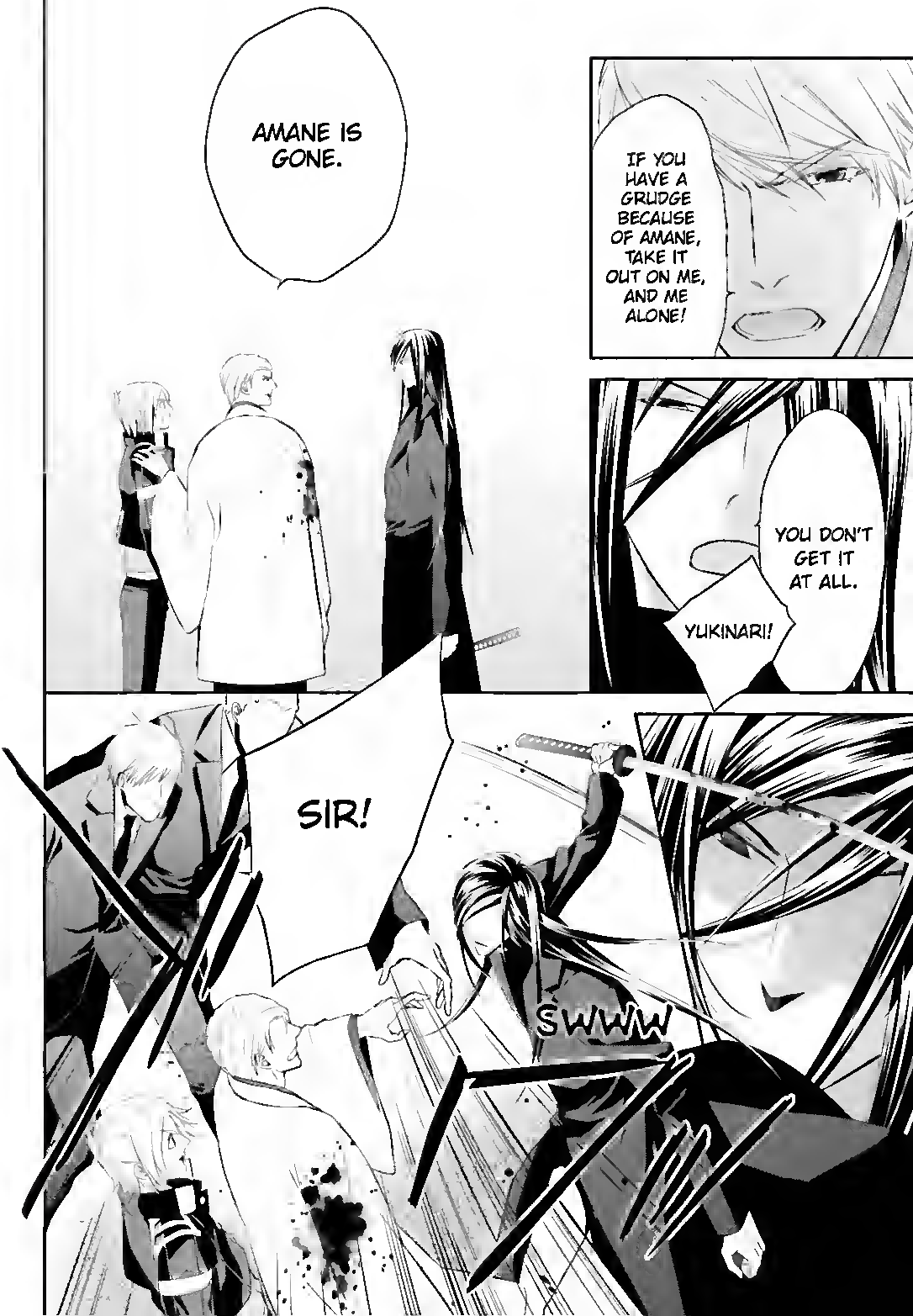
ELDER SISTER, FATHER, MOTHER

JIN'S FAMILY. JIN'S CHARACTER WAS FORMED BY BEING RAISED IN THIS ENVIRONMENT. AMONG THE FAMILIES IN SAMURAI DRIVE, THIS FAMILY HAS THE HEALTHIEST RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER. THEY ARE A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY.
HE DOESN'T APPEAR IN THE STORY, BUT JIN'S GRANDFATHER LIVES WITH THEM. HIS HOBBY IS TO CATCH HIDEHITO AND TO PLAY GO AND SHOGI ON THE VERANDA. (HIDEHITO ENJOYS IT AS WELL.)
THE FATHER RESEMBLES WHAT JIN WOULD LOOK AND BE LIKE IN THE FUTURE. (HE IS ONE OF JIN'S ROLE MODELS.)
THE WOMEN OF THE SAITO FAMILY SUPPORT THE MEN, AND ARE STRONG HEARTED. MANY OF THEM ARE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT, AND IT SEEMS THAT EVEN JIN IS NO MATCH FOR HIS SISTER AND MOTHER.

#24: TRAP

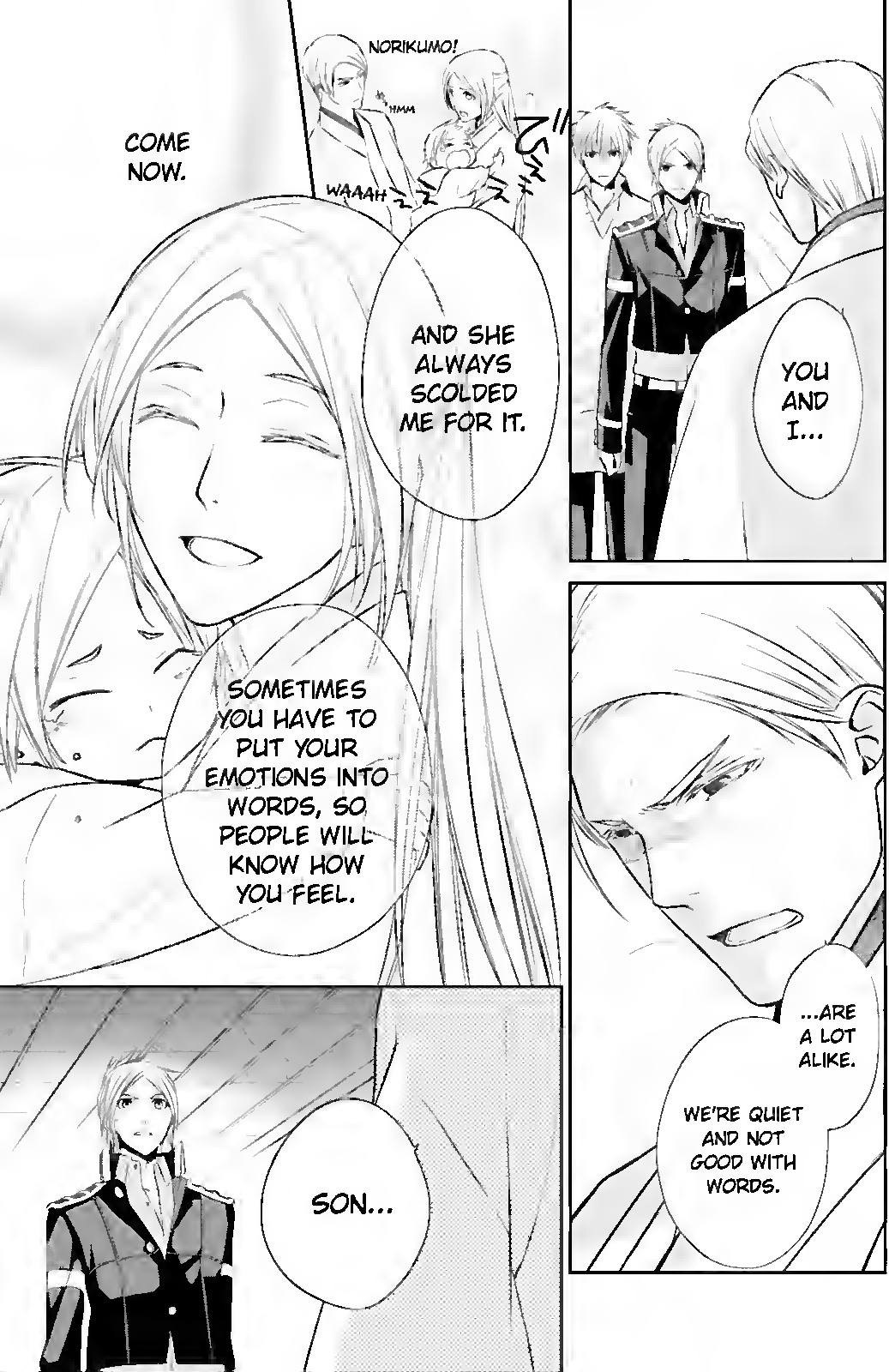
I WOULD RATHER YOU DON'T TOUCH THAT THING...
...FATHER.
SNIKK
NORIKUMO.

FWOOP
CEASE THIS.
YUKINARI.
WHY?!
FATHER...
DON'T INVOLVE HARUMA.
...PROTECTED...
...ME?!


AMANE IS GONE.
IF YOU HAVE A GRUDGE BECAUSE OF AMANE, TAKE IT OUT ON ME, AND ME ALONE!
YOU DON'T GET IT AT ALL.
YUKINARI!
SIR!
SWWW

HUFF
YUKINARI.
GRAB
LOOK CAREFULLY.
THE ONE BEFORE YOU IS HARUMA...!
HARUMA.

WHY?!
WHY?
WHY DID YOU HELP ME?
....
GO.
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
THEY WORK FOR ME. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
LEAVE WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
SO YOU WERE COLD AND HATED ME.
I WAS ALL ALONE.
FATHER... I THOUGHT ...
MOTHER DIED BECAUSE OF ME...
...YOU HATED ME!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO LOOK AT ME!
HARUMA.


NORIKUMO!
HMM
WAAAH
COME NOW.
AND SHE ALWAYS SCOLDED ME FOR IT.
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO PUT YOUR EMOTIONS INTO WORDS, SO PEOPLE WILL KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
SON...
YOU AND I...
...ARE A LOT ALIKE.
WE'RE QUIET AND NOT GOOD WITH WORDS.

I HAVE TO DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO.
NO MATTER WHAT PATH YOU CHOOSE...
...I HAVE NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING.
EVEN IF OUR PATHS TAKE US DIFFERENT WAYS...
HOWEVER...
I ALWAYS HAVE, AND I ALWAYS WILL.
I WILL WATCH OVER YOU.

I'LL BE FINE.
BUMP
GET GOING! HURRY!
HARUMA!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT...
TAP
...I WAS ALONE.
SNAP OUT OF IT.
LET'S GO!

...AND I RAN AND DROVE THROUGH THE DARKNESS.
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT...
BUT...
HARUMA!
FWIP
KASUGA! PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE REST!
....
SNAP

GRIP
I...
...HAVEN'T TALKED WITH MY FATHER FOR OVER 10 YEARS.
HUH?
BUT IT'S TOO LATE...
OKAY!
SO, IT'S YOUR TURN TO TELL HIM.
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?
WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME?
THAT HE WAS ALWAYS WATCHING OVER ME.
HARUMA...

"THANK YOU."
COME ON!
LET'S GO BACK TO SHISEIKAN!

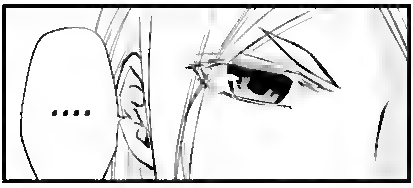
STOMP
AND SO YOU ROOKS MADE IT BACK HERE IN ONE PIECE!
HEY, LITTLE GUY!
STOMP
IBUKI?
O-OH...
IT'S BECAUSE ...

I KNOW WE CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND AFTER JIN WAS SHOT.
I GET THAT! BUT IF THEY KEEP GOING ON LIKE THIS, THEY'LL DIE LIKE DOGS.
BAM
THEY'RE IDIOTS!
SWAAH
YOU AGREE, RIGHT, HARUMA?!
....
HEY.
Haruma?
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
...I'LL...
YOU SEEM DIFFERENT...
HMM?
I SEE WHAT'S GOING ON AND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
I GET IT.

BONG
SO...
SO. HERE YOU ARE.
I'M GOING TO GO.
I'LL GO TO MAKIO'S SIDE!
HUUUH?!
HAH!
SO YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE SOUMA COWARDS!
BAM
I HAVE A NEWFOUND RESPECT FOR YOU, LITTLE GUY!
....
GWA HA HA

TASUKU MAY HAVE BOUGHT YOUR STORY...
BUT I DON'T.
DID REN AND THE OTHERS SEND YOU HERE?
IF YOU'RE HERE TO TRY TO CONVINCE ME TO STOP, IT'S NO USE!

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE AT RIGHT NOW, MAKIO.
SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU IS HURT, AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.


....

THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY.
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.
BUT...

I KNOW THIS BECAUSE I LOST SEISHIRO.
I WON'T STOP UNTIL THE TRUTH IS REVEALED.

REN CARES ABOUT YOU...
...MAKIO.
I KNOW THAT..
...DANGER DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU.
BUT...
SETTING ALL THAT ASIDE...
IT'S NOT JUST REN.
IBUKI...
...AND ALL OF US DO.

BECAUSE I'M HIS FRIEND...
I'M NOT GOING TO INTERFERE ONCE A MAN CHOOSES HIS PATH.
BUT...
BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS.
I DON'T CARE HOW HE WANTS TO DO THINGS.
EVEN IF...
...I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM!
...THOSE PEOPLE ARE CLOSE TO YOU...
I'M WATCHING OVER YOU.
COME NOW.
....SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO PUT YOUR EMOTIONS INTO WORDS...
...SO PEOPLE WILL KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
IT'S YOUR TURN TO SAY, "THANK YOU."

YOUR FRIENDS...
...CARE ABOUT YOU, MAKIO.
SO THAT'S WHY I'LL SAY THIS NOW.
I JUST THOUGHT...
...YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT.
EVEN SO...

KLAKK
KLAKK
KLAKK
BASH
YEESH.
EVEN SO...
...THERE'S NO GOING BACK FOR ME...
KICKK
REC
ONE PICTURE WAS ALL IT TOOK TO GET YOU HERE?
BUZZ
BUZZ

THE SHISEIKAN BRATS MUST...
...BE AT THEIR LITTLE WITS' ENDS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU HURT MY FRIENDS AND CALLED ME HERE!
SIMPLETONS AREN'T WORTH OUR TIME.
THOSE TWINS FROM THE OTHER DAY, OR THE KOKONOE KID WOULD PROBABLY BE A LOT MORE FUN.
DON'T GET ALL WORKED UP.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU GUYS ARE SO PERSISTENT..
...THAT I WANTED TO INTRODUCE YOUR NEW PLAYMATE.
GRAB
COME ON!
EEK!

FWI
TAP
!!
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
THIS PERSON...
...DOESN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO BEAR A SWORD.
!
A CIVILIAN?
THEN WHY DOES HE HAVE A SWORD?
SOCIETY IS MOVING TOWARD BANNING SWORDS.
APPARENTLY, HE CAN'T STAND IDLY BY AND WATCH THE FOUL YOUTH OF SHISEIKAN RUN WILD.
HE WANTS TO PUNISH THEM HIMSELF.

PAT
WAIT!
ALL I SAID WAS...
...I COULDN'T FORGIVE THESE PEOPLE!
RIGHT, RIGHT.
WE WERE SO MOVED BY YOUR ENTHUSIASM.
THAT'S WHY THE TRUE SWORD-BEARERS ARE HELPING YOU ACHIEVE YOUR DREAM.
IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME...
...WITH A REAL SWORD, RIGHT?
KLAKK
BE CAREFUL OR YOU MIGHT CUT YOUR OWN LEG OFF. HOLD ON TO IT TIGHT. NOW
EEK!
COME ON.
IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED.
GRIP
GRIN
!
AHHHH!
AH... AHHHHHHH!

KLANG
STOP IT!
PUT THE SWORD DOWN!
AHHHHHH!
AHHHHH!
KRASH
KLANG
WOULD YOU TAKE KILLING SERIOUSLY?
COME ON, COME ON, COME ON.
NO WAY!
I DON'T HAVE A SWORD I WOULD USE ON AN INNOCENT PERSON!
GOOD GRIEF.
IF YOU WERE THE KIND WHO'D SNAP FROM THE PRESSURE AND KILL...
...WE WOULD HAVE JUST LAUGHED IT OFF.

THUD
BUT YOUR PRECIOUS MORALS...
...WILL TAKE YEARS OFF YOUR LIFE!
YES...
THINGS ARE BECOMING MORE INTERESTING.
WE'VE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT TIME.

REIJI.
...KIO.
MAKIO!
RMMBLE
RMMBLE
MAKIO!
!!

はっ
HUFF
HUFF
MAKIO!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HEY!
MAKI!
HEY...
WHAT IS THIS?!
HE'S... DEAD!
PSST
GASP

HOSPITAL
総合病院
RMMBLE
RMMBLE
HIDEHITO!
SOUMA!
EAAAAUGH!
MURDERER!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU. THINGS LOOK REALLY BAD.

NO VISITORS
NO CHANGE HERE...
HOW'S JIN?
....
BUT WOULD YOU RECONSIDER GOING BACK TO SHISEIKAN?
HEY, HIDEHITO ...
I KNOW YOU JUST SAID YOU'RE STAYING HERE.
BUT...
I KNOW EXACTLY WHY YOU WANT TO STAY HERE TO PROTECT HIM.
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.
...THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT ANYMORE.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE...

HEY THERE, BOSS.
FINALLY AWAKE?
SORRY.
I ALREADY FEEL LIKE I'M GETTING OUT OF SHAPE.
END

Ice Cream Blues

SAMURAI DRIVE CHARACTER PROFILE - PART 22

AT FIRST GLANCE, HE LOOKS LIKE A SMILING PRINCE, BUT THAT SMILE DOESN'T REACH HIS EYES. HE HAS A TENDENCY TO LOOK DOWN ON EVERYONE. HE'S GOOD AT LYING AND KEEPING A POKER FACE.
HE IS THE SAME AGE AS SEISHIRO AND YUKINARI AND IS ALSO A GRADUATE OF SHISEIKAN.
HE IS THE LEADER OF THE EXTREMISTS, BUT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF BECOMING THE LEADER. HE ONLY KEPT THE PEOPLE BY HIS SIDE BECAUSE IT WAS CONVENIENT FOR HIM. HE SHOWS OFF AND LIVES HIS LIFE EXACTLY HOW HE PLEASES.

AN EARLY CONCEPT. HE DIDN'T HAVE AN EYE PATCH YET.

REIJI

AGE: 25, LEADER OF THE EXTREMISTS

#25: DAYS GONE BY
IN MY FLICKERING CONSCIOUSNESS...
WOULD YOU LET ME REST QUIETLY A LITTLE LONGER?
IT'S NOISY OUTSIDE.
HARUMA ESCAPED FROM THE KOKONOE MANOR.
MAKIO'S GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE.
TASUKU IS STILL OUT OF CONTROL.
SHISEIKAN IS COMPLETELY SPLIT UP.
JUST A LITTLE LONGER...
...I WAVERED BETWEEN BEING ASLEEP AND AWAKE.

#25: DAYS GONE BY

ONE YEAR AGO
SHISEIKAN ENTRANCE CEREMONY
HEY, LOOK AT THAT.
THAT'S SUZUNOSUKE OUJI AND CHIKAGE SHIMA. THEY DESTROYED AN ENTIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL.
THOSE GUYS ARE THE "TWIN DEVILS," THE SOUMA BROTHERS.
THIS IS UKYO TSURUGIBE. HE'S FROM A LONG LINE OF SWORD SMITHS. HE SAYS YOU CAN CUT ANYTHING!
THE NEW STUDENTS THAT YEAR WERE A GROUP OF WILD AND TOUGH GUYS.
ALL OF SHISEIKAN ...
...WHO WOULD RISE TO THE TOP.
...WAS WATCHING TO SEE...

IT WAS DURING THAT TIME...
JIN SAITO!
DRAW YOUR SWORD!
I'M THE BEST OF THE SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS, TASUKU SERIZAWA!
I'M GONNA BE THE ONE TO TAKE YOU DOWN!
DIE!

KLANK
AND THAT'S...
UGH...
OOF...
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
ARE YOU OKAY?
THAT'S SEISHIRO SHINDO'S SUCCESSOR.
JIN SAITO.

FROM THAT DAY ON...
I NEVER HAD A DAY'S PEACE.
GET OUT HERE, JIN SAITO!
ゴル C'MON!
GET-OUT-HERE!
YOU HUMILIATED AN UPPER-CLASSMAN ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
AND YOU WERE ALREADY WELL-KNOWN TO START WITH.
A LOT OF THE STUDENTS AT SHISEIKAN ARE OUT FOR BLOOD.
NOW EVERYONE IS FOCUSED ON YOU.
....
THERE'S NOTHING YOU COULD DO ABOUT IT.
THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ARE PARTICULARLY EAGER TO FIGHT YOU.
SIGH
OH WELL...

とりあえず目立つやつからいこう。
LET'S GO AFTER THE GUY THAT'S STANDING OUT.
4組 CLASS 4
4組 CLASS 4
2組 CLASS 2
3組 CLASS 3
1組 CLASS 1
THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THE MOST SKILLED STUDENTS HAVE STARTED TO STICK OUT. IT'S CLEAR WHO THE BEST SWORDSMEN IN EACH CLASS ARE.
AND THEY'RE ALL GUNNING FOR YOU, JIN.
I REALLY HAVE NO INTEREST IN BEING AT THE TOP.
Leave me out of this.
BUT TASUKU IS VERY FIERCE WHEN UP AGAINST YOU.
YEAH...
HE NEVER GIVES UP.
YES.
HE JUMPS AT ME THE MOMENT HE SEES ME.
YES.
SMASSH
KRAKK
AHH
SORRY.
AND EVERY SINGLE TIME, I SEND HIM PACKING.
....
HONESTLY ...
...I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE'S SO FIXATED ON ME.
PHEW
PULL
HE'S DESPERATELY DEFENDING HIS POSITION AS SHISEIKAN'S BEST, RIGHT?

TMP
YOU GUYS!
!
HE'S CALLING HIMSELF THE STRONGEST AMONG THE SECOND-YEAR STUDENT.
HE CAN'T KEEP BEING HUMILIATED BY AN UNDER-CLASSMAN.
STILL, I GET A KICK OUT OF THAT GUY.
AND NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE'S BEATEN, HE NEVER TRIES ANYTHING DIRTY LIKE AN AMBUSH.
HEY, GUYS...
YOU'RE TALKING LIKE IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU...
CHATTER
おい
HE'S LIKE A LOVABLE IDIOT.
YOU JUST CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO HATE HIM.
CHATTER
きゃ
I FIND IT PITIFUL THAT HE KEEPS CHALLENG-ING JIN NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE LOSES.
CHATTER
きゃ
HE WAS TALKING ABOUT HOW HE CAN'T SAY HE BEAT JIN SAITO UNTIL HE BEATS HIM IN A FAIR DUEL.
CHATTER
YEAH, AND HE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE IF HE CHEATS LIKE THAT.
おい
CHATTER

HE KEEPS INTERFERING WITH OUR DUELS, AND I'VE ABOUT HAD IT.
FWIP
BUT.
BOOM
TODAY IS THE DAY YOU'LL FIGHT US.
HA HA
JIN SAITO.
SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR PASSIONATE INVITATION...
FWIP
CHATTER
DRAW YOUR SWORD
DRAW IT!
CHATTER
BUT JIN...
IT'S TIME.
BIP

I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU!
I'M SORRY.
WAAH

RUSSLE
HE'S SO FREAKING POPULAR.
WELL, WITH LOOKS, SKILLS, AND A FAMILY LIKE HIS...
HMM
THAT'S THE SEVENTH GIRL THIS MONTH.
NOW LET'S FIGHT!
YOU DONE?
おわったか
おわったなら
GIVE ME A BREAK
HMM...
THEY ALSO LIKE HOW HUMBLE AND OPENHEARTED HE IS.
The girls are all head over heels for him.
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
I MEAN... HE DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR DATING.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? TASUKU'S NOT EXACTLY POP—
COUGH!
HUH, TASUKU?
What's wrong?
AND THAT SAITO HAS TURNED THEM ALL AWAY.
SERI-OUSLY?!
THERE'S WORD THAT HE EVEN REJECTED MADONNA, THE PRETTIEST GIRL AT THE GIRL'S SCHOOL NEXT TO SHISEIKAN, THE ST. FAIRY GIRL'S ACADEMY.
IMAGE.
THAT'S HORRIBLE!

GRAGH
DIE, SAITO!
THAT BASTARD WOMANIZER!
OOF!
DIE!
KRAKK
SAITO!
...TASUKU'S ATTACKS CONTINUED.
GRAGH
BARGES IN
DIE!
HEY!
JIN SAITO!
DIE, SAITO!
AND LIKE THIS...
FWOOSH
KNOCK IT OFF ALREADY!
WAAAAA
AND THEN...
CHIKARA FINALLY SNAPPED.

DO SOMETHING, JIN SAITO! BEAT HIM DOWN AND MAKE HIM GIVE UP OR WHATEVER!
HE'S IN THE WAY!
GRAB
HAH!
WELL, OF COURSE HE IS!
IT'S HOW YOU ACT.
BUT HE'S JUST SO PERSISTENT.
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT...
YOU...
...NEVER SHOW HOW GOOD YOU REALLY ARE WHEN YOU FIGHT AT SHISEIKAN.
YOU THINK WE WOULDN'T FIND OUT?

DRAW YOUR SWORD!
DON'T JUST CASUALLY BRUSH HIM OFF.
SWSSH
NOBODY WILL GIVE UP IF YOU DO THAT.
KLANG
ZWIPP
THAT'S WHY HE KEEPS COMING AND COMING.
TASUKU WILL KEEP COMING.
AND SO WILL WE!
KLACK
TAKE US SERIOUSLY, DAMMIT!

SKREE
SKREE
GRIP
GRIP
I ALWAYS TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.
GAH!
HE'S A POWER FIGHTER TOO.
PROUD OF HIS STRENGTH.
WHEN...
...I WIELD THE SWORD, I NEVER HOLD BACK.
GRIP
SO THIS IS THE DEAL.
!
!!
FWASSH
SKREE
...BUT ARM STRENGTH IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN HOW YOU DIRECT IT.
This force.
Yeah.
YOU PROBABLY KNOW THIS ALREADY...
HUH ...?!
KLANG
SO, THAT'S WHY...
I CAN'T GIVE KIND OF SERIOUS FOCUS YOU GUYS ARE EXPECTING.
WHAT THE HELL? YOU'RE CONTRADICTING YOURSELF.
REALLY, I'M NOT.

I'VE TAKEN A SHINE TO YOU GUYS.
HUH?!
ARE YOU A MASOCHIST?
UMM, NO.
EVERYONE IN SHISEIKAN IS LIKE THAT. WE'RE ALL PROUD OF THIS SCHOOL AND OUR SKILL WITH SWORDS.
....
SO EVEN IF WE'RE ALL DOING OUR OWN THINGS AND FIGHTING ONE ANOTHER, WE'RE DOING IT FOR THE SAME REASONS.
THE REASON YOU GUYS TRY TO BE THE BEST IN SHISEIKAN...
...ISN'T BECAUSE YOU WANT TO RULE OVER PEOPLE OR GET POWER. YOU'RE SIMPLY INTERESTED IN GETTING BETTER.
IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE I'VE HAD SUCH INNOCENT SWORDFIGHTS. IT'S A LOT OF FUN, AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU.
THAT'S WHY...
...IF TAKING THINGS SERIOUS MEANS TO SHOW YOU MY TRUE STRENGTH, I CAN'T DO IT.

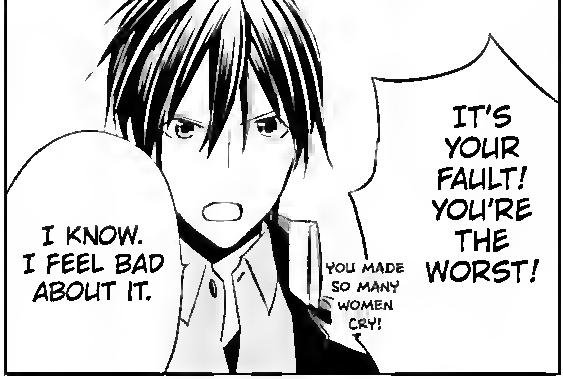
HUH...
WHAT?!
Get over yourself!
?
WHAT JIN MEANS BY ALL OF THAT...
...IS THAT IF HE GOES ALL OUT, THERE WILL BE NO SURVIVORS.
I'm not exaggerating.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
BY THE WAY, JIN.
IT'S ACTUALLY A VERY SAD STORY
WHAT? YOU THINK YOU'RE SOME KIND OF SUPER-HERO?!
WERE PASSED DOWN TO ME BY MY TEACHER, SEISHIRO. SOME ARE ACTUALLY KIND OF NEGATIVE
IT'S NOT THAT! THE SKILLS I LEARNED
TALK IS CHEAP HOW ABOUT YOU BACK THAT UP?
C'MON HIDEHITO! WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING.
PHEW
SWIP
SORRY TO INTERRUPT...
...BUT COME THIS WAY.

HEY, I THOUGHT THIS DUEL SUPPOSED TO BE "FAIR AND HONORABLE."
UMM, THIS IS...
BOOM
I THOUGHT I ASKED FOR JIN SAITO...
BA-DAA
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
WHY'D YOU BRING REINFORCE-MENTS?!
RAAAAGH

BUMMP
ドガッ
HEY!
THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT WHY IS TASUKU FIGHTING IN MY PLACE...
HE'S A SWORD-BEARER, AND PEOPLE SAY HE'S QUITE SKILLED.
APPARENTLY, HE'S A TROUBLE-MAKER FROM A NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL.
THIS SHALL BE A FAIR AND HONORABLE FIGHT BETWEEN TWO MEN.
I HEREBY CHALLENGE JIN SAITO, FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT SHISEIKAN HIGH SCHOOL, TO A DUEL.
IT'S A CHALLENGE TO A DUEL.
THAT HANDWRITING IS TERRIBLE.
YOUR WRITING SAYS A LOT ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW.
THE HOSTAGE! THAT PERSON...
...IS MADONNA FROM ST. FAIRY GIRL'S ACADEMY!
WHADDYA THINK YOUR DOING? LET HER GO!
OH YEAH? WHY? SHE YOURS?
SHOW SOME RESPECT TO THE LADY!
Y-YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
WE THOUGHT SHE MIGHT BE USEFUL.
SHE WAS HANGING AROUND, SO WE CAPTURED HER.
我秋姫こと放かすんじゃねえ!!

I MET MADONNA ONE YEAR AGO.
SOME GUYS WERE BOTHERING HER, SO I STEPPED IN AS A LARK.
HEY, SOMETHING'S GOING ON OVER THERE.
BING BONG
ゴーン
BING BONG
ハーン
ゴーン
BING BONG
SWORDSMEN ARE HATED BY EVERYONE THESE DAYS...
...BUT SHE WAS LIKE AN ANGEL TO ME.
BUT THAT ANGEL...

NEE-NERR
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU JIN SAITO.
TASUKU'S MENTAL IMAGE.
MADONNA GATHERED HER COURAGE TO PROFESS HER LOVE, AND HE COLD-HEARTEDLY REJECTED HER!
THAT FOOLISH ACT CAN'T GO UNPUNISHED!
HE WILL PAY FOR THIS!
WITH MY SECRET LOVE HIDDEN DEEP IN MY HEART...
I'LL KILL HIM!
in his third year of middle school.
中3当時
OF ALL PEOPLE...
SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE YOUNGER!
I... I...
GASP
はっ
HEY, TASUKU.
EVERYONE KNOWS. YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY SUBTLE.


I KNOW. I FEEL BAD ABOUT IT.
IT'S YOUR FAULT! YOU'RE THE WORST!
YOU MADE SO MANY WOMEN CRY!

YOU'RE A WALKING CLICHÉ.
YOU'RE SUPER OLD-FASHIONED.
SHUT UP!
SO THAT'S WHY YOU KEPT JUMPING ME!

YES, AND JIN HAS A FIANCÉ.
HUH?
BUT THE SWORD IS MY TOP PRIORITY RIGHT NOW.

今なんつった
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
HIDEHITO...
HUH?

WHAT?!
ほんとにいるんだ
そういう
名家の後継ぎ!!
THOSE ARRANGED MARRIAGES REALLY EXIST! I'D HEARD RICH FAMILIES DID THAT.
JIN HAS A FIANCÉ. IT WAS DECIDED WHEN HE WAS A CHILD.

WHAAA
ALL THE MORE REASON I CAN'T LET YOU BE THE ONE...
...WHO SAVES HER.
GET OUT OF HERE, WEAKLING!
MY BUSINESS IS WITH JIN SAITO!
I DON'T CARE!
JRRKK
EEK!
W-WAIT! DON'T YOU CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WOMAN?!
GRAB
AHHH!
THUD
HE'S STRONG!
?!

I WANT TO...
...DEFEAT JIN SAITO AND THE STUDENTS OF SHISEIKAN BECAUSE THEY'RE KNOWN BE THE STRONGEST IN THE KANTO REGION.
IF I DID THAT, MY NAME WILL BE KNOWN ALL OVER.
HEY...
YOU'RE GOOD... YOU WANT TO TEAM UP WITH ME?
YOU HATE JIN SAITO, TOO, RIGHT?
STMMP
THEN TEAM UP WITH ME, AND WE'LL TAKE EVERYTHING FOR OUR-SELVES...

THUD
STOP RIGHT THERE, FOOL.
STABB
I'M PROUD OF MY SKILL WITH THE SWORD AND SHISEIKAN.
AHH
MY FEET!
I'M NOT A FALLEN SWORD-BEARER LIKE YOU, BALDY.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I HATE JIN...
...I'D RATHER CUT MY OWN HEAD OFF THAN LOWER MYSELF TO YOUR LEVEL.
SKWIRT

IF YOU EVER SET YOUR DIRTY FOOT INSIDE SHISEIKAN EVER AGAIN...
...I'LL KILL YOU!
KLANG
TWITCH
I'LL CRUSH YOU.
BRING IT ON!
SNAP
AND ALL OF SHISEIKAN!
STOMP

RAAGH
WELL SAID, TASUKU.
HA HA...
LET'S SET EVERYTHING ELSE ASIDE FOR NOW. FEEL LIKE JOINING US?
SAY, JIN...
HEH.
HE'S GOTTA BE KIDDING. I WON'T LET HIM.
HE THINKS HE'S REPRE-SENTING SHISEIKAN ALL BY HIMSELF?
I'D FEEL BAD IF WE LET ONE OF OUR BELOVED UPPER-CLASSMEN DIE.

YEAH...
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
SHNIICK
GRCCH
IF WE'RE UP AGAINST PEOPLE LIKE THAT...
I...
GRCCH
...CAN LET LOOSE A LITTLE.
FWOOSH

THINKING BACK...
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME WE CAME TO-GETHER.
THAT WAS THE LAST GENERATION WHERE THE STUDENTS COULD DO STUPID THINGS TOGETHER WITH THEIR FRIENDS.

IT'S BEEN ONE YEAR SINCE THEN.

I KNOW EXACTLY WHY YOU WANT TO STAY HERE TO PROTECT HIM.
BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.
THOSE WERE DIFFERENT TIMES.
THEY ARE GONE NOW.
SHISEIKAN IS COMPLETELY DIVIDED.
HIDEHITO.
EVEN SO...
JIN!
AT LEAST...

TASUKU IS STILL BEING THE SAME AS USUAL, HUH?
I HEARD EVERY-THING.
...OUR GOALS AND WHAT WE BELIEVE IN STILL HAVE NOT CHANGED SINCE THEN.
LET'S GO BACK TO SHISEIKAN.
"I'D FEEL BAD IF WE LET ONE OF OUR BELOVED UPPER-CLASSMEN DIE."

WE'LL COME TO-GETHER ONCE AGAIN.
I'M SURE OF IT.
YEAH.
LET'S GO.
END

#26: OVER THE EDGE

YET ANOTHER UNFORGIVABLE INCIDENT HAS OCCURRED.
A STUDENT OF SHISEIKAN HAS MURDERED AN INNOCENT PERSON.
THE PERPE-TRATOR IS BEING HARBORED AT THE BARRICADED SHISEIKAN.
THEY'VE BANDED TOGETHER INTO AN ARMED GROUP. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL ANOTHER CITIZEN IS HURT.
BUT REST ASSURED...

THE NOBLE TRADITION OF BEARING SWORDS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF JAPAN, AND WE WILL DEFEND THIS PART OF OUR CULTURE.
THE TEACHINGS OF SEISHIRO SHINDO AND OTHERS HAVE LED TO A LOST GENERATION OF EVIL SWORDSMEN, AND WE WILL ELIMINATE THEM.
...TRUE SWORD-BEARERS WILL FIGHT ON YOUR BEHALF.
WE WILL CREATE A NEW FUTURE FOR THE SWORD.
IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT SITUATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PASSED A SPECIAL LAW.
NOW, ONLY CERTAIN PEOPLE APPROVED BY THE GOVERN-MENT WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BEAR SWORDS.
IT REVOKES THE RIGHT TO BEAR SWORDS FROM ALL OTHER PEOPLE.
THE "SPECIAL SWORD ABOLISHMENT EDICT" WILL BE ENACTED.

#26: OVER THE EDGE
THE LAW GOES INTO EFFECT ON DECEMBER 1ST.
ONLY SEVEN DAYS UNTIL THE ENACT-MENT OF...
...THE SPECIAL SWORD ABOLISHMENT EDICT

SLAM
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?!
IT'S YOUR FAULT...
...THAT THE WHOLE SHISEIKAN IS BEING MADE AN EXAMPLE OF.
THIS IS BULL!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE CALLING US?
"THE MURDERER AND THE CRIMINALS WHO HARBOR HIM!"

HEY! LET'S JUST TURN MAKIO IN!
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE SHISEIKAN!
GASP
MUR...
...DER.
HEY!
YOU DON'T KNOW MAKI DID IT YET!
GRAB
SLWAP
YOU'RE SO NAÏVE.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT KIND OF TALK.

...THERE WAS A CORPSE IN FRONT OF HIM?
EVEN THOUGH THE EXTREMISTS WERE THERE, THE CIVILIAN WAS WILDLY SWINGING A SWORD?
...ON A CIVILIAN.
HE TURNED HIS SWORD ...
AND WHEN HE WOKE UP..
HE COULDN'T DEFLECT ALL THE ATTACKS AND LOST CONSCIOUS-NESS...
DO YOU THINK ANYONE WILL BELIEVE YOU?!
YOU THINK YOU CAN SAY "I DIDN'T DO IT?"

BUT YOU WANT TO HAVE MAKIO TAKE THE FALL...
...JUST TO PROTECT SHISEIKAN'S REPUTATION?
YOU'RE WITH TASUKU'S GROUP, AND YOU ATTACKED THE EXTREMISTS!
WE WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING OUT OF LINE!
WE HAVE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT SHISEIKAN IS HONORABLE AND NOT A THREAT...
RAAGH!
KLIK
DISGUST-ING
KLAK
...WE HAVE TO HAND OVER MAKIO!
THERE'S NOTHING UGLIER THAN THE MINDLESS SHOUTING OF THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

TMMP
HEY?
MAKI?
THE TRUTH DOESN'T MATTER.
MY BEING HERE DOESN'T HELP SHISEIKAN.

I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE.
HEY...
WAIT!
MAKIO!

TWIP
HUH?
GAH...
SPLAT

WHA-
WHAT'S THAT FOR, KOKONOE?!
WHUMP
I REALLY MEAN IT.
GRAB
WHOA!
ENOUGH.
YOU'RE MAKING ME MAD.

HUH?!
ANNOY-ING.
IRRI-TATING.
INFURI-ATING!
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?!
YOU...
...DON'T EVEN KNOW...
...IF YOU DID IT OR NOT...
AND YOU'RE DOING IT "FOR SHISEI-KAN"?
SACRIFICING YOURSELF
...AND BACKING OFF IS WHAT...
...STUPID PEOPLE DO!
TWITCH

BUMP
FINE!
THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?!
I FEEL THE SAME AS YOU!
I ALSO WANT TO PROTECT SHISEIKAN!
BUT ...
I'M SO ANGRY.
ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THAT ANSWER?
GOOD LITTLE BOY?
SKRRCH
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN PROTECT SHISEIKAN!

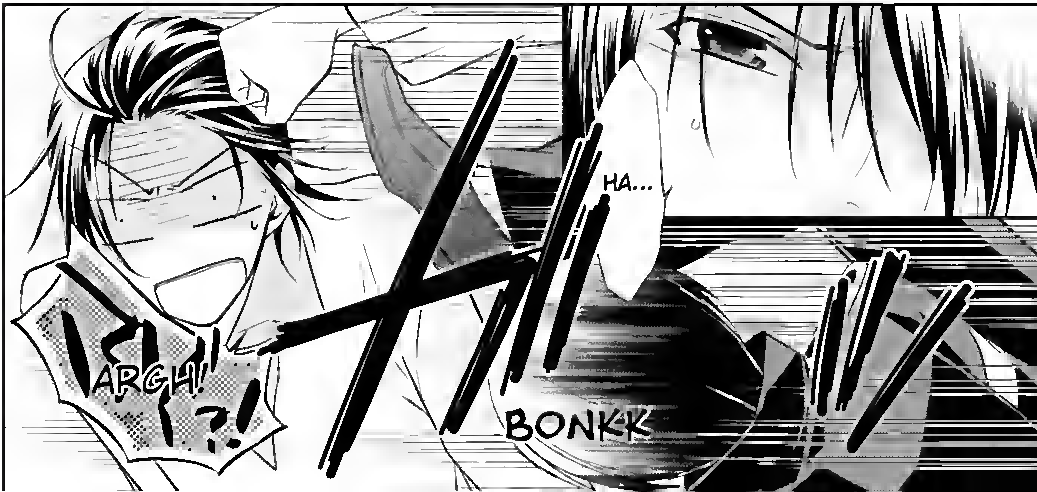
WHAT?!
WHAT I WANT TO PROTECT...
...ISN'T SHISEI-KAN!
SHISEIKAN ...
...IS ONLY A SYMBOL.
WHAT I REALLY WANT TO PROTECT...
...IS "INSIDE" US!
I WANT TO PROTECT WHAT...

...ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF SHISEIKAN HAVE.
THEIR LOVE FOR THE SWORD...
THEIR CONVICTIONS.
HARUMA...
WHY...
...ARE YOU GIVING UP?
WHY WOULD YOU TRY TO PROTECT THE "OUTSIDE"...
...BY SACRIFICING YOURSELF?
WHY ARE YOU LETTING GO SO EASILY?!

YOU'RE ALIVE!
YOU HAVE THE MEANS TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH YOURSELF!

HARUMA...
BECAUSE I CARE ABOUT SOMEONE...
I KNOW THIS PAIN.
...BURIED ALONG WITH THEM.
WHO WILL SLEEP FOREVER WITH THE TRUTH...
I HAVE EVERY RIGHT...
...TO SAY IT IS!

PLEASE.
ASK THIS OF YOURSELF.
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS SITUATION?
IF...
...YOU'RE NOT...
FIGHT!


HA...
ARGH!
?!
BONK

YOU GUYS ...?!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
YOU!
WHETHER YOU DID IT OR NOT, OUR FRIENDSHIP WON'T CHANGE.
I WON'T FORSAKE YOU.
I'LL BE ON YOUR SIDE NO MATTER WHAT.
JUST TELL US .. ...WHAT YOU REALLY WANT TO DO.
THEN, WE'LL FIGHT WITH YOU.
ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ALL OF SHISEIKAN ...TURN AGAINST YOU?
I KNOW YOU DIDN'T DO IT.
SHUT UP.
THEN JUST STAND TALL... ...AND CRUSH THEM ALL.

....
HE WAS ALWAYS BY MY SIDE.
HA HA...
I GUESS YOU REALLY TRUST ME.
YOU'RE AGREEING TO EVERYTHING WITHOUT HESITATION.
迷わず全肯定
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.
HUH?!
SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?!
THE BONDS THAT I'VE BUILT...
I...
...MAKE ME SAY THIS.
I WANT TO BELIEVE...
...THAT I DIDN'T DO IT.
I WANT TO STAY AT SHISEIKAN TO PROVE IT.
I DON'T KNOW IF I DID IT OR NOT SO I WON'T APOLOGIZE FOR IT.
BESIDES...

I WANT TO FIGHT WITH YOU UNTIL THE VERY END.
THEN...
KWRRCH

YOU DAMN FIRST-YEAR BRATS!
WE WON'T LET YOU DESTROY THE SHISEIKAN WE FOUGHT TO PROTECT!
KWRRCH
WE'RE NOT GOING TO PLAY ALONG.
RAGH
KLAK

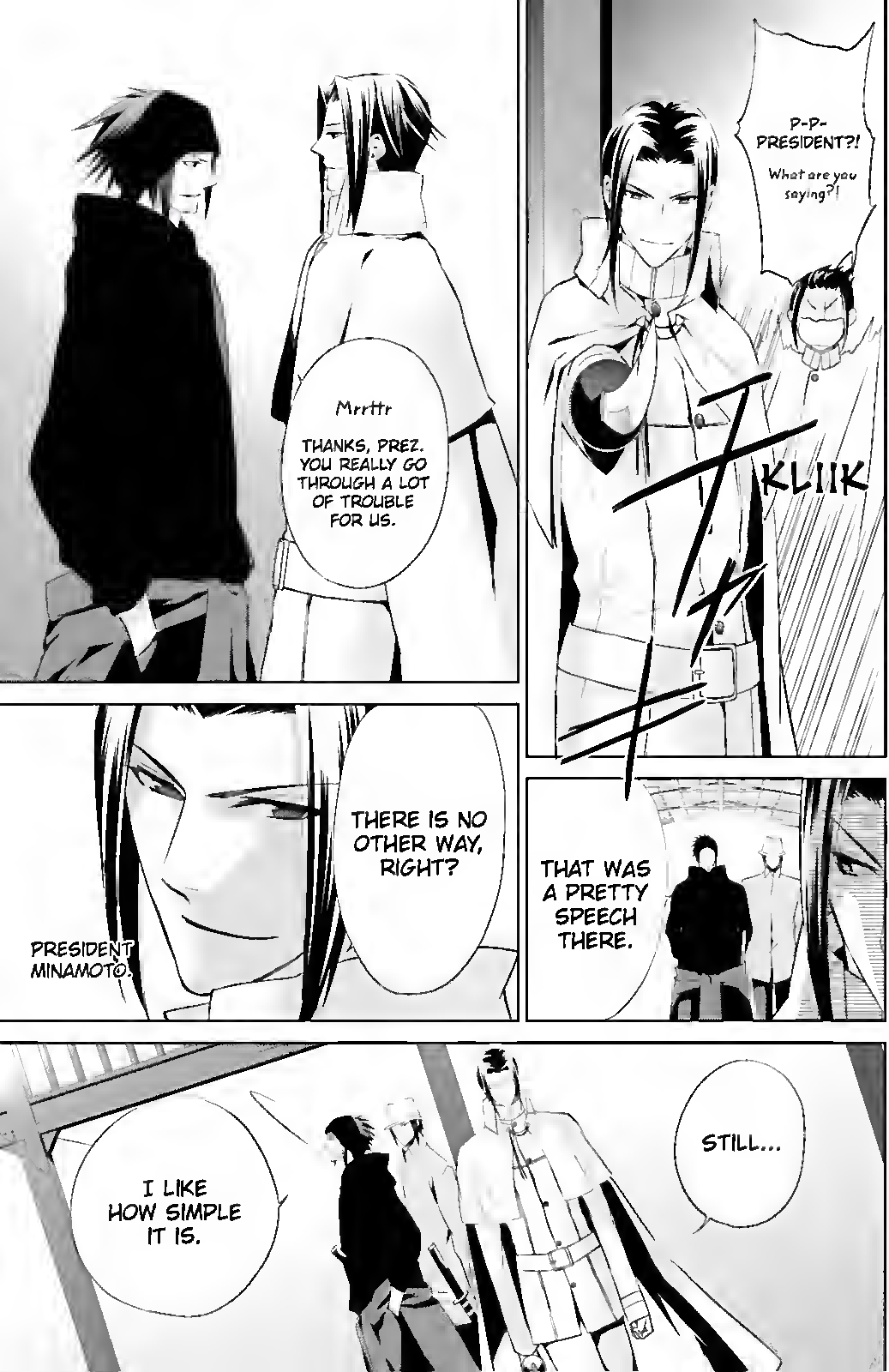
STOP PLAYING AROUND!
KLAK
KLAK
YOU IDIOTS...

CHEER
JIN!
JIN IS BACK!
PLEASE LISTEN! SHISEIKAN IS A MESS AND...!
I SAID, SHUT UP.
JIN!
SHHH
....
NOW?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

KLAK
TWITCH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? ENOUGH WITH THE STUPID ARGUMENTS! IT'S PATHETIC.
TASUKU'S GROUP AND THIS AND THAT AREN'T IMPORTANT.
CLICK
GWRR
IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, SAY IT FROM ON HIGH.
KLAK
THE STRONG CONTROL EVERYTHING.
THAT'S HOW WE DO THINGS AT SHISEIKAN.
SWSSH

I DON'T CARE WHO.
TRY AND MAKE ME SUBMIT.
IF YOU'RE READY TO DIE, THAT IS.
WHAT THE—? JIN?! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
GULP

KLAK
SOUNDS FUN.
!
STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT MINAMOTO!
WAAH
YOU'RE BACK?!
YES.
OR THEY PUT ME BACK HERE, RATHER.
LISTEN, EVERY-ONE
THE EXTREMISTS ARE PLANNING TO USE SHISEIKAN.
THEY ARE USING US AS THE SACRIFICIAL LAMBS TO BRING RUIN TO ALL OTHER SWORDSMEN.
BUT LOOK AT OUR CURRENT SITUATION HERE.
THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO BRING SHISEIKAN TOGE-THER AFTER IT HAS BEEN SO DEEPLY DIVIDED.
EVEN IF WE TALK THINGS OUT, WE'LL HAVE ONLY MANAGED TO BUILT A HOUSE ON SAND.
SHNIIKK
?!
SO I TOO...
...I'LL SHALL DO THINGS THE SHISEIKAN WAY.


Mrrttr
THANKS, PREZ. YOU REALLY GO THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR US.
P-P-PRESIDENT?!
What are you saying?!
KLIIK
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY, RIGHT?
PRESIDENT MINAMOTO.
THAT WAS A PRETTY SPEECH THERE.
I LIKE HOW SIMPLE IT IS.
STILL...

KAZUE
WE'RE IN.
WE'VE ALWAYS SAID WE WEREN'T INTERESTED IN LEADING THIS SCHOOL.
CHIKARA
IF YOU'RE GONNA FIGHT...
...YOU'LL SHOW US WHAT YOU CAN REALLY DO, RIGHT?
THE SOUMA BROTHERS TOO...!
KLAKK
JIN SAITO!
KRCCK

WE HAVE TASUKU, AND...
SO... WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN DEFEAT ME...
HARUMA KOKONOE.
...YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOUR FRIENDS...
EVEN IF YOU'RE THE MOST SKILLED SWORDSMAN OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS.
EVERY-ONE...?
I'LL TAKE YOU DOWN.
FWKK

THANK YOU.
LET'S DO THIS.
IT'S THE FIRST AND LAST PARTY OF SHISEIKAN.
END

至誠館
SHISEIKAN

REIJI'S GROUP.
OUT OF INFATUATION, OUT OF AMUSEMENT, OUT OF PLEASURE, OUT OF DESPAIR, AND OUT OF MINDLESSNESS; EACH OF THEM HAS GATHERED UNDER REIJI'S FLAG. THEIR NAMES ARE NICKNAMES. IT'S HARD TO TALK TO PEOPLE IF YOU DON'T HAVE NAMES, SO REIJI JUST CALLED THEM BY WHATEVER CAME TO MIND. THEY ALL WEAR SUITS IN THE STORY, BUT IN THE ORIGINAL DRAFTS, THEY ALL HAD DIFFERENT JOBS, PERSONALITIES, AND OUTFITS. WITH REGARDS TO RIN, SHE WAS A YOUNG GIRL AT FIRST, BUT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO MAKE HER OLDER.

I WANT TO USE HER IN SOMETHING AGAIN SOMEDAY.

SAMURAI DRIVE CHARACTER PROFILE — PART 23

FIVE EXTREMISTS

RIN AI BAKU SHUYU SETSUNA

#26.5 [ANOTHER STORY]: SUCCESSOR

ON THAT DAY, I ACCEPTED "EVERYTHING."

GWARR
GRCCH
....
AS EXPECTED FROM MASTER SHINDO. HE HAS FOUND GREAT TALENT.
WITH HARUMA TOO, THE FUTURE OF SHINDO DOJO IS SAFE.
SHOCK
HARUMA, IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP AND GET BETTER...
....KOUYA WILL GO TO JIN!
YOU WANT TO RACE?
LET'S SEE WHO SEISHIRO PRAISES FIRST!
NOT A SINGLE PERSON...
GRRR
I WON'T LOSE TO YOU!
GO AWAY!
I'M KIDDING.
HA HA HA
...DOUBTED THE FUTURE OF THE SWORD.

THIS IS WRONG!
THE EXTREMISTS BECAME RAMPANT, FORCING SEISHIRO TO PICK UP HIS SWORD TO FIGHT.
BUT THAT PEACE WOULD CRUMBLE AWAY SOON.
HE SACRIFICED HIS FRIEND, AND YET HE CONTINUED TO MURDER.
IF WE GIVE INTO THE EXTREMISTS, THIS COUNTRY WILL BE RUINED.
I KNEW EVERYTHING.
BUT I STILL COULDN'T STOP SEISHIRO.
BECAUSE I SAW THE SAME FUTURE FOR THE SWORD AS HE DID.
THIS WAS MY "JUSTICE."

I UNDERSTOOD SEISHIRO'S WILL AND CONVICTION.
THE SWORD IS FOR PRO-TECTING PEOPLE.
I WANT TO ENTRUST ...
...THE FUTURE OF THE SWORD TO YOU TWO.
SO...
KWWRK
I WANT YOU TO CARRY ON "EVERYTHING" ABOUT ME.
!
JIN...

OF COURSE I KNEW.
KOUKI AND KOUYA ARE TWIN BLADES.
KOUKI!
BUT SEISHIRO ONLY TOOK ONE SWORD WITH HIM WHEN HE NEEDED TO KILL.
IT WAS ALWAYS KOUKI.
DO YOU KNOW...
...WHAT I MEAN BY "EVERY-THING," JIN?
...MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT.
THAT MOMENT ...
A SWORD STAINED WITH DARKNESS.
KOUYA ...
...IS THE SYMBOL OF "JUSTICE." ITS NAME HAD THE MEANING OF BECOMING A LIGHT OF PURITY TO ILLUMINATE EVIL.
...SO THAT KOUYA CAN REMAIN AS THE BEACON OF LIGHT.
KOUKI WAS TO CLEAR THE PATH FROM THE DARKNESS ...

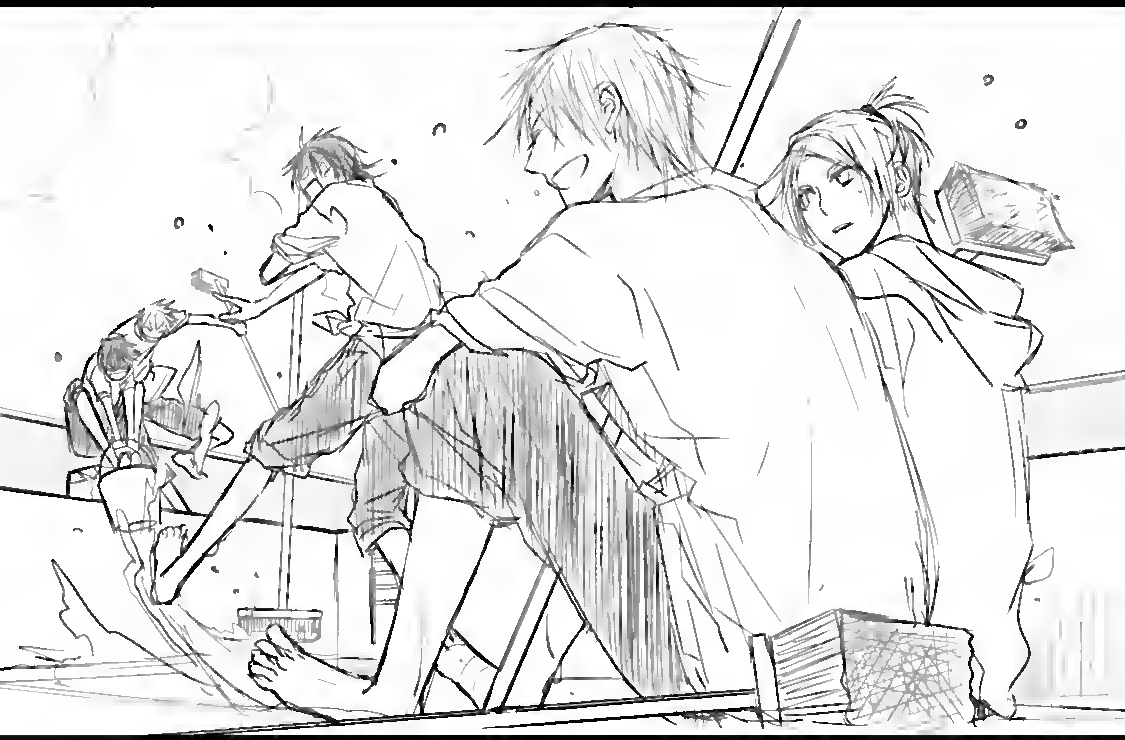
FOR ONLY A MOMENT...
...I WAS JEALOUS.
KOUYA WOULD...
...BE LEFT TO HARUMA.

BUT I WAS ALSO EXCITED.
"IS THIS THE FEELING OF DUTY?"
NO!
THIS IS HAPPINESS FROM HOW SEISHIRO HAS FINALLY ACCEPTED ME AS HIS COMRADE.

I WANT YOU TO...
...SUPPORT KOUYA.
HARUMA IS SO RECKLESS.
I WANT YOU TO SUPPORT HIM AS HIS BROTHER.
I RECEIVED KOUKI...

AND...
THE PATH THAT SEISHIRO WAS FORCED TO TAKE...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS. IT'S LIKE YOUR WILL.
DON'T DIE!
I WON'T LET HARUMA WALK THE SAME PATH AS SEISHIRO.
WE WILL NEVER MURDER.
IF I CAN GUIDE HARUMA...
THANK YOU...
IF CAN PROTECT THE FUTURE OF THE SWORD.
SEISHIRO!

KOUKI!
WHY?!
I WILL BECOME THE DARKNESS THAT PROTECTS THE LIGHT.
RSSLE
!
KNOCK IT OFF!
END



SAMURAI DRIVE

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING SAMURAI DRIVE VOL. 6 TO THE END! THE COVER FEATURES MAKI AND REN, TWO CHARACTERS I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE THIS IMPORTANT WHEN I FIRST STARTED! I'M JUST AS SURPRISED AS ANYONE! CONGRATS TO YOU TWO!

THE ART FOR THE AFTERWORD THIS TIME WAS PICKED FROM REQUESTS ON TWITTER (@SHISEIKANHIGH). IT'S CLASS 1-1 CLEANING THE POOL. THERE WERE LOTS OF OTHER IDEAS, SO I'D LIKE TO FIND THE TIME TO DRAW ROUGHS OF THEM AND UPLOAD THEM ONE DAY. I HOPE I CAN DO THAT BEFORE VOL. 7 IS OUT. SEE YOU NEXT TIME.

FUJIKO KOSUMI – AUGUST 2012

Special Thanks

WAKABAYASHI, EVERYONE IN THE EDITINGDEPARTMENT

KITAMURA, NISHIKAWA FUJITA, HAREYAMA

EVERYONE FROM THE MATOBA FAMILY, YAMAZAKI FAMILY, AND NAKAMURA FAMILY

AKANE-CHIN, MIKKO

HACHIMITSU

THANK YOU TO ALL MY READERS THAT SUPPORT ME!

THANK YOU!

SAMURAI DRIVE
Volume 6

KADDKAWA MANGA

Story and Art by
Fujiko Kosumi

SAMURAI DRIVE © Fujiko KOSUMI 2012

KADOKAWA CORPORATION
2-13-3 Fujimi Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, 102-8177 JAPAN

Translation/Labaamen, HC Language Solutions, Inc.
Lettering/HudsonYards Studio
Design/Nozomi Akashi
Editor/Eric Searleman